



United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service



USDA Forest Service 2016 Tree Canopy Cover for the NLCD

The USDA Forest Service builds the Tree Canopy Cover component of the National Land Cover Database (NLCD). Photointerpreted canopy cover reference sites along with geospatial predictor layers, including Landsat imagery, spectral derivatives, time-series analysis, and topographic data were used to develop the predictive map models. The modeling was carried out using the random forests algorithm. Geospatial analysts reviewed the model outputs and

applied several steps of post-processing to reduce visual artifacts and improve overall appearance of the products. For a small portion of areas outside of the lower 48 states, persistent cloud cover within the input imagery prevented estimation of TCC values from the numerical models. These sub areas are displayed as purple on the maps.

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